Production Centre, Bangalore and Eastern Regional Production Centre, Calcutta, apart from a unit of the Division at New Delhi for production of family welfare and defence training films.

(b) These centres have been provided with essential items of equipment and facilities such as 16mm cameras, editing machines and recording equipment.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). One of the primary functions of Doordarshan is to provide a platform, through its channels, to the abundant talent available within the country in various regions in the field of music and other cultural art forms. The local artists are also engaged by the Films Division for its featurettes.

[English]

International Airport in Punjab

2960. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by people visiting Punjab from foreign countries due to the absence of an international airport in Punjab;

(b) if so, the time by which an international airport is likely to be established there;

(c) the details of airports proposed to be set up in the Punjab and the locations thereof; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to commence thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Amritsar Airport is already provided with facilities to cater to international operations.

(c) and (d). At present, there is no proposal to set up any new airport in Punjab.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

2961. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Ajmer-Khandwa and Ajmer-Chitor-Udaipur lines into broad gauge;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted/ propose to conduct any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for the the development of Nasirabad and Vijay Nagar Railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Survey for Ajmer-Chitor-Udaipur section has been completed. Chittaurgarh-Neemuch section is Broad Gauge. Work on Neemuch-Ratlam section has been taken up. Survey for Ratlam-Khandwa Gauge Conversion has been taken up.

(d) The stations will be provided with adequate facilities to handle the level of traffic alongwith the Gauge Conversion works in the coming years.

[English]

Schemes for Concessional Fares

2962. SHRI A.C. JOSE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines/Air India have any schemes which allows concessional fares for ordinary passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some such schemes in existence at present are :-

(1) Special introductory fares on Air India's new operations to Chicago. One domestic round trip ticket is also offered to every passenger travelling round trip between India and New York/Chicago on certain classes of fares.

(2) 25% incentive has also been introduced from 16.10.96 till 31.03.97 on net fare portion applicable to domestic sectors on Air India network.

Indian Airlines offers 50% discount on fares to senior citizens, students, blind persons, cancer patients war widows, war disabled persons, members of armed forces and personnel of general reserve engineering force etc.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Tamil Nadu

2963. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Tamil Nadu, district-wise and category-wise during 1996-97, till date;

(b) the number of telephone connections proposed to be given during the remaining period of 1996-97, district-wise and category-wise;

(c) the number of telephone connections proposed to be given during the remaining period of 1996-97, district-wise and category-wise; and